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Remarks

Claims 22, 24-27, and 32-42 are pending. Claim 22 is the only independent claim. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested.

The independent claim 22 has been amended to more clearly define the originally disclosed structure of applicant's invention according to which there is provided a supporting structure 2 of an external profile 305 with supporting bars 306, first cross members 307 supported by the longitudinal members 304 of the internal longitudinal portion 301, and second cross members pivoted to the supporting bars 306 and sliding with respect to the longitudinal members 304, as seen in Figs. 14-18 and described at page 6, line 11 to page 7, line 20.

Such a claimed structure of the bed is neither disclosed nor fairly suggested to a person having ordinary skill in the art anywhere in the prior art of record. In particular the primary reference **Massucconi (U.S. Patent No. 3,862,454)** only discloses a flexible supporting surface element 14 (Fig. 1) or cushions or paddings 20 (Figs. 4-7), there being no disclosure or fair suggestion of applicant's particular claimed structure as described above. Similar considerations apply to all of the other prior art references of record.

Applicant's claimed structure with the separate first cross members 307 and second cross members 308 connected in the manner as claimed advantageously provides a particularly robust structure that is effective and efficient in movement for providing improved care and rehabilitation of immobilized patients. These advantageous results are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record including in particular the primary reference **Massucconi** which is only concerned with providing an adjustable divan useful in a home and leisure setting.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully solicits allowance of pending claims 22-27 and 32-42.

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Respectfully submitted,



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